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Information Brochure

CINDER CONE

PLANNING UNIT



Land Use Decisions

REDDING DISTRICT OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Redding District Office
2460 Athens Avenue
Redding, California 96001

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Dear Reader:

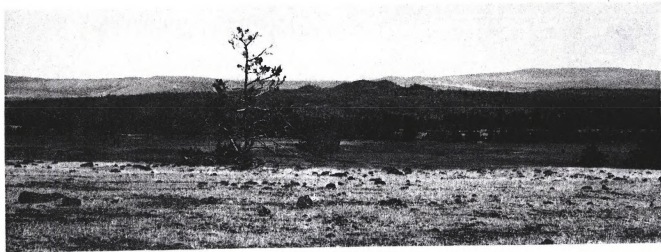
I wish to notify you of the Land Use Decision made in 1973 on 51,000 acres of National Resource Lands within the Cinder Cone Planning Unit. This office contacted and interviewed individuals of the community and officials of local, state and federal agencies prior to the public meetings conducted in 1973. Over 100 people attended these meetings in which the Bureau of Land Management presented its land use recommendations. More than 30 written comments were received after the public meetings. These comments were quite helpful in formulating the land use decisions.

This brochure summarizes 16 of the major land use decisions we felt would be of most interest to you. A total of 96 decisions were made and are available for your review in the Redding District Office, 2460 Athens Avenue, Redding, California.

One point I want to stress is that Land Use Planning does involve the constantly changing needs and interests of our society, as they relate to our natural resources. These are your lands and we will always strive to meet the interests and needs of the people for the proper management of your public land resources.

Sincerely yours,

Stanley D. Butzer
District Manager



Description of The Cinder Cone Planning Unit

The Cinder Cone Planning Unit is bounded on the east by the Shasta County line, on the south by Lassen National Forest, on the west by Hat Creek Valley, Saddle Mountain, Soldier Mountain and the town of Dana, and on the north by the Shasta-Trinity National Forest and Little Hot Spring Valley. The Unit contains the Fall River Valley and encompasses a total of 134,000 acres, of which 51,000 acres are under BLM administration. Other government ownership includes 240 acres of National Forest, 1,880 acres of State land, and 171 acres owned by Shasta County. Pacific Gas and Electric Company is the major private landowner in the Unit. (See map on page 5.)

The area is volcanic in character. Extensive lava flows, much of it covered with juniper or oak, contain many interesting geologic features such as lava tubes, cinder cones and craters. Much of the terrain is flat or gently sloping.

The population of the area is expected to increase from approximately 2,000 in 1970 to 2,700 by the year 2020. However, this gradual 35% increase over a 50-year period is not expected to be dependent upon BLM lands for urban expansion.

Until recently, BLM lands in this Unit have been used primarily for livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, timber production and extraction of cinders. This was in tune with then current trends, as timber production and agriculture, including the livestock industry, have been the mainstays of the economy of the area. These industries will probably maintain their current levels, while the recreation business will increase according to current projections.

Resource inventories and other planning findings to date in the Cinder Cone Planning Unit seem to indicate that recreation and wildlife habitat may be the primary values of BLM lands in the future. Other indications are that livestock grazing may be beneficial to wildlife if managed properly, and some BLM lands may be valuable for exchange with private owners.

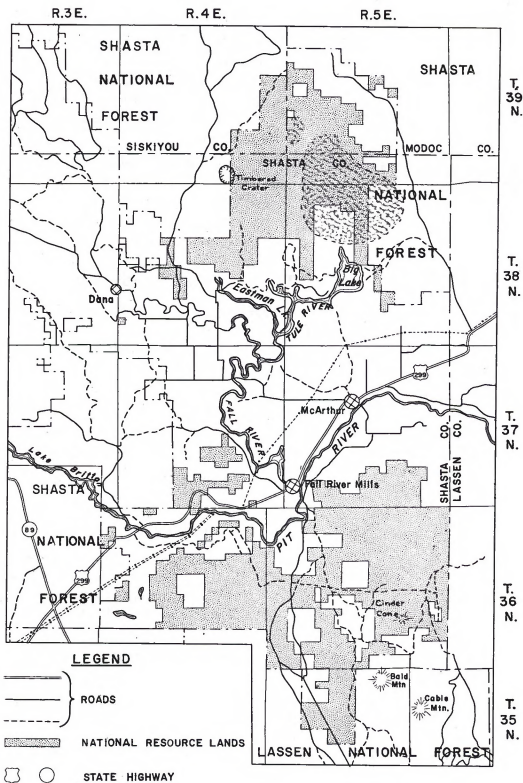
Why Land Use Planning?

ONE has to look back into history for the answer to that question. The National Resource Lands administered by BLM are, in effect, residual lands. They are what remains of our original Federal estate after a century of homesteading and various grants under the public land laws, and reservations for national forests, parks, wildlife refuges and other special uses. In the past, they were administered primarily on a custodial basis because there was always some question as to their future tenure. However, events of recent years have drastically slowed down public land disposal and the National Resource Lands are coming under intensive, long-range multiple use management.

THE transition from custodial to intensive management began in 1964 when Congress passed the Classification and Multiple Use Act. That law directed BLM to inventory all of the lands under its administration and, after consultation with user groups, other government agencies and the general public, classify them either for retention under multiple use management, or for transfer out of Federal ownership.

(Continued on next page)

GENERAL LOCATION



UNITED STATES
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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

CINDER CONE PLANNING UNIT

MOST of the National Resource Lands in the Cinder Cone Area were classified in the late 1960's for retention. With that decision made, it became necessary to make a more detailed resource inventory of the lands and develop Management Framework Plans for their future administration. Such plans guide future land use decisions and form the basis for more intensive land use planning, including program and budget requests for consideration by Congress.

SOME people wonder why the boundaries of a Resource Area take in more than the National Resource Lands (NRL). The reason is that the NRL cannot be studied or managed in a vacuum. They are related to the lands around them physically, economically and socially. For instance, timber, forage and other materials sold from the NRL affect the local economy. Wildfire knows no boundaries and can sweep across public and private lands alike. Game animals, which belong to the state, find food and shelter for all or part of a year on BLM land.

THE Resource Area boundaries are extended to take in a definable geographic, economic and social area of which the National Resource Lands are an integral part. Certain types of data, such as deer migration routes or fire hazards are gathered throughout the Resource Area. However, Management Framework Plan decisions apply **only** to the National Resource Lands administered by BLM.

The BLM Planning System

IN 1964, BLM started developing a planning process to better determine which land use, or combination of land uses, could take place within given geographic areas. After a period of design and testing, the BLM Planning System was adopted and implementation started in July 1969. This System presently is being used to develop and maintain land use plans which consider all of the many resource uses for all National Resource Lands.

THE Planning System is similar to traditional planning approaches. It includes such usual components as goals, objectives, inventory of physical resources, socio-economic data and public participation. However, it differs in several ways. It has techniques requiring the description and comparison of "trade-off," or what is gained or lost when decisions are made to accept various alternatives. Another major departure from traditional planning philosophy is the concept and requirement of assessing the single-use potentials of each physical resource.

How It Works

IN brief, the system works as follows. The first step in the procedure is to delineate the BLM-administered land into geographic areas called Planning Units. These units serve as the basis for collection and analysis of basic resource data called Unit Resource Analysis (URA). The URA includes a detailed description of the existing environment of the Planning Unit, a physical inventory of individual resources (lands, minerals, livestock forage, forestry, recreation, wildlife, watershed), and analysis of the resource production opportunities without multiple-use consideration.

AFTER URA's are completed, a Management Framework Plan (MFP) is prepared for a planning area. The MFP is a conceptual plan which indicates how the National Resource Lands in a given geographic area should be managed. An MFP may cover one or more Planning Units. Basically, it is the result of a process designed to identify and reconcile major conflicts in land and resource use. The MFP provides a set of goals, objectives and constraints for a specific planning area to guide the development of detailed plans for the management of each resource. It is prepared using an interdisciplinary approach at the field level of BLM employees. Coordination with a variety of groups and interests is obtained in an organized public participation process.

THE MFP for a specific planning area describes the various resource uses that are permissible after consideration of BLM policy guidance, the facts about the resources and uses, views of the public and other inputs to the decision-making process. In addition, the MFP describes the constraints necessary to ensure compatibility of uses, protection and enhancement of the environment and other management objectives.

MFP Steps

THE MFP process requires three steps. Step 1 is the development of a set of recommendations showing the optimum use of/for development for each resource, constrained only by the resource capability, the limiting effects of policy, and social and economic data as provided by other components of the Planning System. Step 1 also includes environmental enhancement and protection recommendations.

STEP 2 covers resolution of conflicts and development of alternatives to solve or minimize the conflicts. During this step alternative multiple-use recommendations are developed for the planning area. These help with conflict resolution, development of alternatives to solve or minimize the conflicts and to identify data weakness. BLM then presents its recommendations to the public for their input comments.

THE third step in the MFP process involves a complete review and analysis of the foregoing and making management decisions which will guide future BLM programs.

FOLLOWING approval of the MFP by BLM and subject to available funds and manpower, program activity plans are prepared for each resource activity, to lay out in detail how each activity will achieve the objectives and meet the constraints shown in the MFP. The public is urged to participate in the activity planning by making its wishes known.

THIS is the point we have reached in the Cinder Cone Planning Unit. Ninety-six management decisions were made. It will not be possible to follow up on all of them in the immediate future. Therefore, we have to think in terms of priorities. Which objectives should be tackled first? We are asking you to help us answer that question.

Highlights of Land Use Decisions

Following is a summary of the land use decisions already published for the Cinder Cone Planning Unit.

... Work toward the early designation of the 17,000 acre parcel of National Resource Land in the Timber Crater region as a Primitive Area. In the meantime, manage the area in accordance with Primitive Area criteria set forth in BLM Manual 6221. Coordinate interim management, studies and plans with the U.S. Forest Service.

... Develop a land exchange program designed to increase public values in the Cinder Cone Unit. In the meantime, National Resource Lands should not be sold until exchange possibilities have been exhausted, or it is determined that their sale would result in greater public benefit than exchange.

... BLM should not open additional cinder pits on National Resource Lands in the Planning Unit until private sources of cinders fail to meet local demands for such material.

... Placement of signs on National Resource Lands and public access routes should be greatly expanded to aid the public.

... Consolidate grazing leases, where possible, into units which lend themselves to multiple use management. Then,



initiate rest rotation grazing systems designed to use livestock as a management tool to improve deer habitat and range and watershed conditions.

Some of The Decisions

Lands

1. Several parcels of BLM lands have been identified that could be traded for parcels of private land which have superior value for recreation and wildlife uses. (See map on page 9.)

Some privately owned areas have been identified that contain significant values for public uses. Trading would be required because BLM has no authority to buy those lands.

Reason

We have identified some fragmented parcels of Federal lands which have little multiple-use value or have no public access or are unmanageable.

We also have identified some key parcels of private lands which have unique values either for rare or endangered species or have superior values for other wildlife or unique scenic values for the public.

BLM has no authority for outright purchase of these lands for the public; instead, we propose to trade some lands which may have subdivision or urban potential for private lands better suited for public use.

* * *

2. All lands in the Planning Unit should be retained in Federal ownership. No federal lands within this unit are to be sold until exchange opportunities have been fully evaluated and determinations made that the greatest public benefit will be derived through sale.

Reason

Out-right sale of unusable BLM lands is discouraged since funds received from the sales would go directly into the National Treasury and would not be available to purchase needed private lands. Thus, the public would be unable to obtain the key private lands through exchange.

* * *

Minerals

1. Do not open additional cinder pits on BLM lands as long as private sources can meet the demand for such materials.

Reason

It is felt BLM should not compete with private enterprise in the sale of cinders.



A TYPICAL CINDER PIT.

Minerals

2. Do not allow the sale of flat ornamental rocks in the area.

Reason

The supply of this material is non-renewable and in many cases unique to the area. There is some environmental damage in removal; however, the more important consideration is regulating the sale of this material. Regulation is extremely difficult due to the policing needed. Returns to the public are not adequate to cover costs.

This produce is decorative but it is not a major building construction material and is not necessary for the building trades.

There are private sources which probably could meet the demand.

* * *

3. Allow for the exploration of geothermal steam wells in the unit. All sites should be thoroughly analyzed to assure that all environmental conditions are fully recognized.

Reason

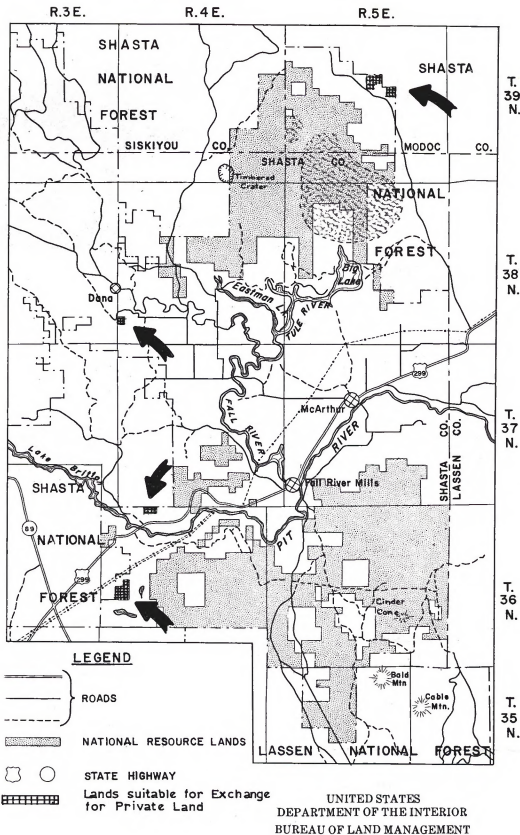
Geothermal energy is a source of energy usually associated with volcanic land formations.

If this resource exists, well drilling should be allowed.

There will be necessary safeguards to protect the environment. They are required by Environmental Analysis and in drilling plans.

* * *

LAND EXCHANGE



CINDER CONE PLANNING UNIT

Range-Livestock

1. Discontinue the use of herbicide sprays to control brush reinvasion in grass seedings.

Reason

In the past, chemical spraying of herbicides have been used to stop the reinvasion of brush in grass seed.

This practice is very costly and not often successful. The chemicals previously used are restricted and have been known to have adverse affects on key winter deer range.

There are other ways to control the resprouting, such as intensive livestock management and controlled burning.

* * *

2. Establish livestock grazing systems to improve the quality of forage, make more efficient use of forage and at the same time enhance other resource values. Lease areas would be combined wherever possible.

Reason

Establishment of livestock grazing systems will improve the quality and quantity of forage and make more efficient use of livestock forage. At the same time other resource values will be improved. Consolidating livestock grazing leases wherever possible will be more efficient use of livestock as a management tool since individual Federal lease areas would tie directly into a rotational pasture system.

* * *

Timber

Manage the specified areas of timber land on a sustained yield basis under proper silvicultural methods.

Reason

The area in question has the characteristics needed for a low-grade commercial timber stand. Proper silvicultural methods could increase the quality and quantity of this timber stand.

Watershed

Do not allow vegetation removal or the establishment of sand quarries in an extremely erodable area along the Pitville road.



Wildlife

1. Manage the existing reservoirs to benefit wildlife habitat and plant fish in all suitable man-made water bodies.

Reason

Presently, reservoirs are used for livestock water. With proper perimeter fencing, these reservoirs can be developed into wetland habitat for waterfowl and many other wildlife species. Livestock use would continue.

Some reservoirs have capabilities for development of water fisheries or they can be deepened to support fish species such as bass, bluegill and catfish.

* * *

2. Protect rare and endangered species and nesting sites by restricting those uses which may be threatening to the species.

Reason

Nest sites of a rare and endangered species, the bald eagle, can best be protected by restricting man's activity near them. Closing roads and restricting off-road vehicle use, mining and hunting within one-quarter mile of these areas should be sufficient.

Reason

Removal of vegetation exposes the sandy area to the elements of wind and rain. Due to the particular windiness and terrain of this area, wind and sand erosion is accelerated.

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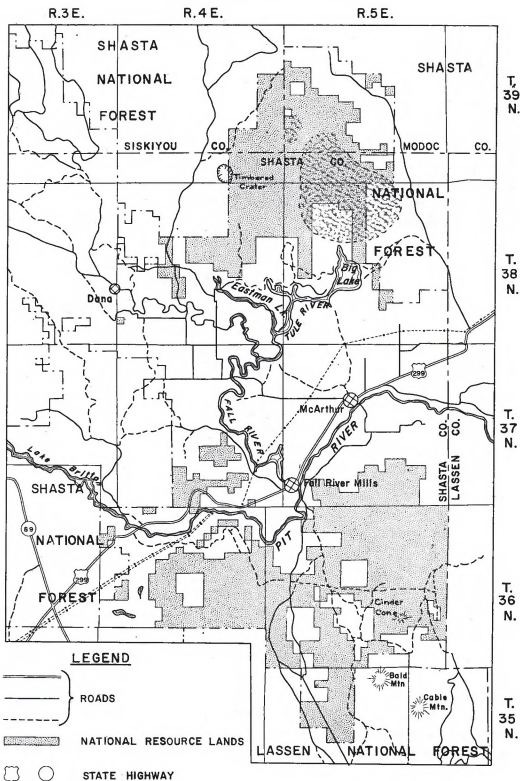
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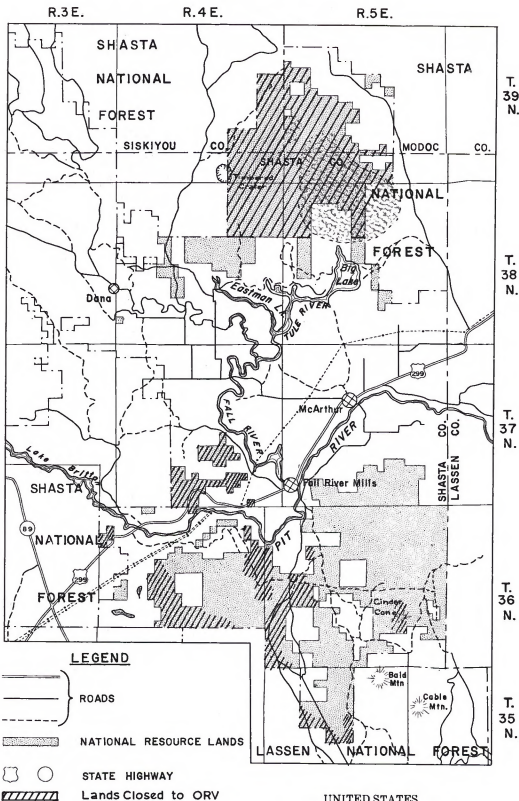
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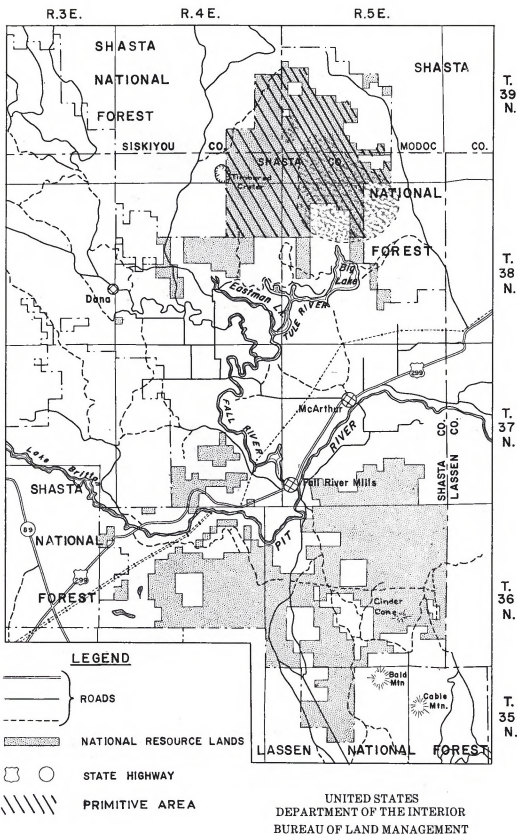
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LANDS CLOSED TO ORV



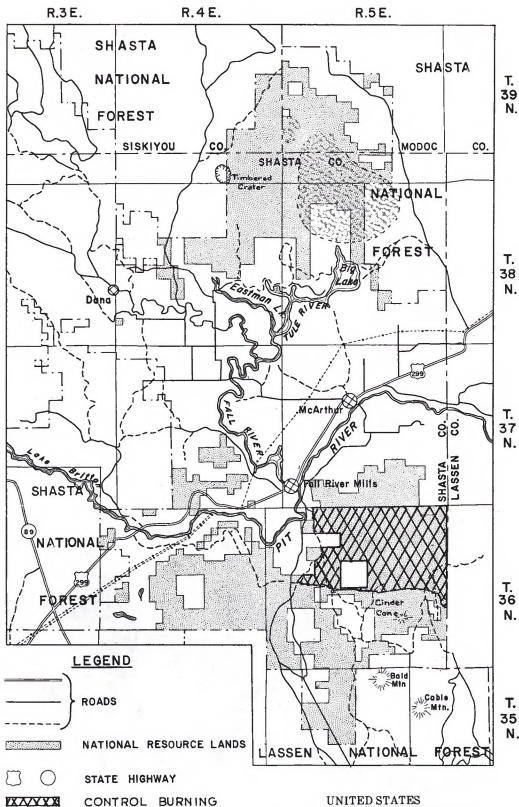
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PRIMITIVE AREA



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CONTROL BURNING



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Redding, Ca. 96001

2460 Athens Ave.

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